



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
BUSINESS MEETING OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL
INSPECTIONS
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
<http://sbc.lacounty.gov>**

Wednesday, June 15, 2016

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (16-3151)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Chairperson Barbara Bigby, Vice Chairperson Cheryl Grills
 Ph.D., Commissioner Donald S. Andrews, Commissioner
 Johanna Arias-Bhatia, Commissioner Susan Burton,
 Commissioner Percy Duran III, Commissioner Eleanor R.
 Montañó and Commissioner Theresa Zhen

Excused: Commissioner Anne S. Hill

Staff present: Roy Sinclair and Jenny Kimbell. (16-3150)

Call to Order. (16-2455)

Chairperson Bigby called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Chairperson Bigby led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

1. Approval of the June 8, 2016 Minutes. (16-3105)

On motion of Commissioner Percy Duran III, seconded by Commissioner Donald S. Andrews and unanimously carried, this item was approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

2. Department of Auditor-Controller (AC). (16-3106)

Ms. Michele Day, AC, Group Home Ombudsman, distributed copies and reported on the Children's Group Home Ombudsman Activity Report during the months of April and May 2016.

April 2016

There were a total of 16 Hotline Requests for Assistance Calls and a total there were 9 Outreach visits to the following facilities:

- **Dangerfield (81st and 11th Street Sites)**
- **Fleming and Barnes, Inc. Dimondale (Carson Site)**
- **Fred Jefferson Memorial Homes (Both Sites)**
- **Human Services Network (All three Sites)**
- **Rosemary Children's Services (All five Sites)**
- **For the Future (Ventura County)**

In continuing her report, Ms. Day reported that in May 2016 there were a total of 12 Hotline Requests for Assistance Calls and conducted 4 Outreach visits to the following facilities:

- **T & T Group Home**
- **Turmont Home for Boys**
- **Rosemary Children's Services (Bonnie and Green Street Sites)**
- **Crittenton Services for Children and Families (Orange County)**

3. **Internal Services Department (ISD). (16-3107)**

There was no representative present to report.

4. **Department of Mental Health (DMH). (16-3108)**

Mr. Bart Callender, Residential/TBS Program Administration, DMH stated that he does not have any new information to report, however was present to answer questions posed by the Commission.

5. **Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). (16-3109)**

Ms. Rhonda David Shirley, DCFS, Out of Home Care Management Division, reported that during the month of May 2016 there were a total of 806 Absent Without Leave (AWOLS) and the child abuse hotline received a total of 21 referrals in the following categories:

- **11 Physical Abuse**
- **3 Sexual Abuse (SA)**

- 6 General Neglect (GN)
- 1 Emotional Abuse (EA)

There were a total of 26 referrals closed in May 2016:

- 6 GN
- 9 PA
- 5 SA
- 1 EA
- Exploitation (EX) 2
- Caretaker Absence/Incapacity (CAI) 1
- Severe Neglect (SN) 2

Investigation results of closed referrals:

- 9 Evaluated Out
- 5 Inconclusive
- 10 Unfounded
- 2 Transitional Shelter Care Substantiated

Ms. David-Shirley also reported that the following Group Home was placed on hold:

- B & I Group Home (both sites)

6. Probation Department (PD). (16-3110)

Ms. Pamela Pease, Supervising Deputy Probation Officer, Group Home Monitoring and Investigations Unit, Placement Services Bureau, PD, provided the status of group home AWOLs for May 2016 as follows:

There were 131 AWOLs involving 111 youth:

- 64 Remain AWOL
- 49 Returned to group homes
- 14 Placed in Juvenile Hall
- 2 Camp placement
- 1 Sheriff's Department
- 1 Deceased

Ms. Pease also provided the Commission with detailed monthly status reports of group home AWOLs during the month of May 2016.

Mr. Michael Varela, Director of Dorothy Kirby Center, provided the

Commission with the Probation Department's Directives for their information.

7. Sheriff's Department (SD). (16-3111)

Captain Gonzalez, Los Angeles County Sheriff Department, addressed the Commission regarding the letter received by the Commission from a Men's Central Jail inmate. He reported that all the issues stated in the letter has been entered into the system and will be addressed by the appropriate division. Following his report, the Commissioners expressed their concerns regarding the primary election and inmates not receiving information to register to vote. Captain Gonzalez informed the Commission that all the concerns will be taken back to Commander Romero.

8. Office of the Inspector General (OIG). (16-3112)

Ms. Barbara Phillips, Monitor, Office of Inspector General (OIG), reported that she will take the SBC's findings during their visits back to the OIG's office for further follow up and possible action.

9. Chairperson's Report on various items. (16-3113)

Chairperson Bigby reminded the Commissioners to bring their donations for the scholarship presentation to the June 22, 2016 meeting.

10. Staff Report on Correspondence Received and Department Representative Reports. (16-3114)

Staff reported that District Attorney Jackie Lacey is scheduled to come and present at the August 10, 2016 Commission meeting.

11. Commissioners' Reports on Group Home and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from June 9, 2016 to June 14, 2016. (16-3115)

During the reporting period, the following group homes/facilities were reported as being in satisfactory condition:

Commissioners Andrews and Montañó visited:

- San Fernando Courthouse (Third St., San Fernando, CA) on June 10, 2016.**
- Orange County Children's Foundation (Gramercy Ave., Torrance, CA) on June 13, 2016.**
- Orange County Children's Foundation (Marbella Ave., Carson, CA) on June 14, 2016.**

During the reporting period, the following facilities were reported as being in unsatisfactory condition:

Chairperson Bigby visited:

- Men's Central Jail (Bauchet St., Los Angeles, CA) on June 10, 2016 and reported that this was a follow-up visited regarding the letter of concern that was written to the Commission by an inmate.

Chairperson Bigby and Commissioner Bhatia visited:

- Men's Central Jail (Bauchet St., Los Angeles, CA) on June 14, 2016 and reported that this was a follow-up visit from the May 5, 2016 town hall meeting and inmates expressed multiple concerns for follow-up.

Commissioners Zhen, Bhatia and Duran visited:

- Twin Towers Correctional Facility - Tower One, Sixth Floor (Bauchet, St., Los Angeles, CA) on June 10, 2016 and reported the following:
- There is a lack of mental health staff
- Staff overtime reduction has led to less outdoor recreation time
- There is no adequate training to de-escalate mental health inmates
- Deputies informed of infections and viruses being spreaded amongst inmates and deputies quickly
- Deputies complained of being gassed daily
- Inmate complains range from up to 200 per day

Commissioners Zhen and Burton visited:

- Century Regional Detention Facility (Alameda St., Lynwood, CA) on June 13, 2016 and reported the following:
- There are bugs and worms coming out of the showers and toilets
- The water coming from the faucet is cloudy
- A dirty bandage was found in food
- Many inmates requested to vote and were not given the information

Commissioner Zhen visited:

- Century Regional Detention Facility (Alameda St., Lynwood, CA) on June 14, 2016 and reported that this was a follow-up visited to interview inmates who did not get the voting information. Many inmates signed declarations indicating that they wanted to vote and were not given the information. Inmates also expressed concerns regarding the voting posters that were posted stating that convicted felons could not vote.

12. Report from the Sybil Brand Commission's Ad-Hoc Committees. (Continued from the meeting of June 8, 2016)

- Annual Report (16-3116)

This item was continued to the June 22, 2016 meeting.

III. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

13. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (16-3118)

There were no items presented for a future agenda.

Public Comment

14. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (16-3119)

There were no members of the public present to address the Commission.

Adjournment

15. Adjournment for the meeting of June 15, 2016. (16-3120)

There being no further business, Chairperson Bigby adjourned the meeting of June 15, 2016 at 12:40 p.m.